

OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
YOUTH PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

State Workforce Youth Council

Meeting Date: October 2, 2020

Meeting Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Meeting Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/98622037395?pwd=N2phOHlwWTBneERZQWd3WEExOeVj2QT09>

AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions	Co-Chairs	10:00am – 10:10am
Review of August 7 Meeting Minutes (Vote for approval)	Co-Chairs	10:10am – 10:15am
Presentation on Hope Rising SEL program	Carl McKenzie, Hope Rising	10:15am – 10:30am
Strategic Planning Discussion on Committee's Priorities and 2021 Goals	Co-Chairs	10:30am – 11:15am
Old Business New Business	Co-Chairs	11:15am – 11:25am
Adjourn	Co-Chairs	11:25am

ATTACHMENTS

- August 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes (Draft for approval)

ATTENDEES

Steve Shepelwich, co-chair	Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
Rhonda Mize, member	Choctaw Nation
Greg Hall, member	Youth Advocate
Joyce Jones, member	Kiamichi Technology Center
Kerry Manning, member	Southern Workforce Board
Karen Davidson, member	Southern Workforce Board
Lance Allee, member	Oklahoma CareerTech



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Renee Sansom, member	Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
Robert Greenlaw, member	Kimray
Tracy Keeley, member	Oklahoma Insurance Department
Marissa Lightsey, member	Oklahoma State Department of Education
Jackie Pearson, member	Tinker Air Force Base
AJ Crowell, guest	Oklahoma CareerTech
Mary Kate Cole, guest	Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Lindsay Horn, guest	Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Megan Ellis, guest	Boys and Girls Club
Jaclynn Gray, guest	AGC of Oklahoma
Chelsea Hunt, guest	Oklahoma State Department of Education
Yolanda Scott, guest	Central Oklahoma Workforce Innovation Board
Dr. Jerri Schoats-Stoutermire, guest	Eastern Workforce Investment Board
Shannan Beeler, guest	Junior Achievement
Letha Bauter, guest	Oklahoma CareerTech
Jamie Hooper, guest	Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
Carl McKenzie, guest	Hope Rising SEL
Darcee Simon, staff	Oklahoma Department of Commerce – Office of Workforce Development

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome & Introductions

At approximately 10:03am, Steve Shepelwich began the meeting by welcoming members and guests to the virtual committee meeting. He thanked Rhonda Mize for leading the August meeting.

Review and Approval of August 7, 2020 Minutes

Steve asked the committee members to review the August 7, 2020 minutes and called for a motion. Robert Greenlaw moved to approve the August 7, 2020 meeting minutes and Greg Hall seconded the motion. Darcee Simon explained that a meeting poll would pop up to vote electronically for approval. The poll includes options to approve, not to approve, or abstain from the vote (for guests and non-voting committee members). The motion passed without objection.



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New Business

Steve began with new business and asked Darcee Simon to share the proposed 2021 committee meeting dates. She recommended adjusting the structure of the committee meetings from bi-monthly to quarterly full committee meetings and allow additional time between meetings for subcommittees to convene. The proposed 2021 meeting dates would be quarterly on Fridays at 10am on February 5th, May 7th, August 6th, and November 5th.

Steve asked if any committee members had updates to share. Shannan Beeler shared that Junior Achievement will be continuing to offer the JA Achievement virtually this year for 8th graders to fulfill their ICAP requirements and they are planning for a statewide event in January. Renee Sansom invited the members to attend the Department of Rehabilitation's Virtual Business Summit and stated that she would forward registration information to Darcee to pass along to the committee.

Rhonda Mize shared that the Choctaw Nation's virtual career expo was coming up on November 18th. She shared that they have a need for additional business and industry involvement and presenters. The response from schools has been great and they are expecting approximately 4500 students from across the Choctaw Nation and across the country to participate.

Presentation on Hope Rising SEL program

Steve invited Carl McKenzie to share more information about Hope Rising with the committee. Carl shared that Hope Rising is a social and emotional learning curriculum that has worked extensively in Latin America and is expanding into the US. They have been working with Dr. Chan Hellman from OU's Hope Research Center. He noted that research prior to the COVID-19 pandemic identified that 55% of students did not report that they had hope. Dr. Hellman defines hope as the belief that the future can be better than it is today and that we have a role to play in that. Goals, pathway, and willpower are the tenets in the methodology of hope. The curriculum is provided in both hard copy and digital formats. The *My Best Me* program includes 30 unique lessons developed at each level for grades 1-8 and they are working on pre-K/Kindergarten and 9th/10th grade. This year there are approximately 30,000 Oklahoma students using the program. Robert Greenlaw referenced the employability schools that the Career Ready Schools subcommittee had been discussing, noting this would be a great tool for supporting students in their learning. Darcee noted that Carl's contact information would be shared as meeting follow-up. Steve thanked Carl for the information.

Strategic Planning Discussion on Committee's Priorities and 2021 Goals

Steve invited committee members to share the accomplishments they feel the Youth Council has attained this year. Robert recognized the collaborative effort of finalizing the Programs of Excellence framework for the State Department of Education and asked if there were any updates on that project. Steve stated that he presented the initiative at the last Governor's Council meeting and it has been forwarded with a letter of recommendation to the State Department for further consideration. Rhonda stated the continuous opportunity for collaboration and learning through the network of the Council that she always takes back to her job and community. Shannan added that the opportunity to build a better understanding of what's going on in different parts of the state is extremely beneficial and a unique aspect of the Youth Council.

Steve asked the committee members what they see as the challenges they are anticipating next year that may be facing youth and youth-serving organizations. Shannan stated that ensuring the sufficiency of digital resources has been a big challenge. Megan Ellis added that an additional challenge is the opportunity gap is expanding and more students are seeking academic remediation, especially for students who were previously struggling in school. The equity gap also exists as rural communities have added pressure due to lack of technology or reliable internet access. Steve noted that the Federal Reserve has been weighing in on the digital inclusion issue as well.

Steve asked about efforts to engage disconnected youth or students who may be disengaging from education and workforce. Marissa Lightsey from the State Department of Education shared resources available at www.okedge.com including the Individual Career Academic Plan toolkit and implementation examples. There are also monthly activity toolkits to support school districts. Yolanda Scott stated that there is a need for creativity when it comes to outreach for students who have exited from the school system and noted that many states use street outreach type programs. Marissa noted that there is at least one library in each county of Oklahoma and many libraries have started connecting with school districts to expand programming and may be great partners for serving disconnected youth and families.

Steve thanked the committee for engaging in the discussion and noted that the conversation will continue in December to hone in on the strategic priorities for next year.

Old Business

None.



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Next Meeting

Friday, December 4, at 10am

Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City Campus

Business Technologies Building, 3rd Floor, BT304A

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:05am.

Respectfully submitted,

Darcee Simon



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